

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02500 181714Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CA-01 SSO-00 /018 W
-----019927 181744Z /64

O 181648Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5547
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DOUALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2500

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES
SUBJECT: REPORT OF DEATH OF AMCITS MAYNARD E. ERICKSON AND
MIRIAM SUNWALL ERICKSON

REF: YAOUNDE 2478

1. THIS AM DCM AND CONSULAR OFFICER DELIVERED COPY OF
DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON ERICKSONS TO PHILEMON YANG, VICE-MINISTER OF
TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION, AND ADVISED HIM OF URGENCY OF RECEIVING
INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS. MINISTER PROMISED TO SEND MESSAGE
REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT YAGOUA AND
ASKED THAT WE RECONTACT HIM THIS AFTERNOON.

2. AT 1630 LOCAL TIME, CONSULAR OFFICER TELEPHONED YANG.
HE VERIFIED MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT, BUT AS YET HAD NO RESPONSE.

3. EMBASSY NOW INVESTIGATING LEAD DEVELOPED THROUGH HEAD OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF PASTORS OF CAMEROON WHO REPORTED TO CONSULATE
DOUALA THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM SUERETE SOURCES THAT AMERICAN
MISSIONARY HAD BEEN MURDERED. YANG HAS BEEN INFORMED OF
THIS DEVELOPMENT AND WE ATTEMPTING INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY.

4. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM MR. GUAY OF S.C.E.T. INTER-
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NATIONAL THAT THROUGH RADIO CONTACT WITH SEMRY RICE PROJECT
NEAR YAGOUA HE HAS FOUND OUT THAT A PASTOR AND HIS WIFE HAD
BEEN "EGORGE" WHICH TRANSLATES AS EITHER MURDERED OR HAVING
THROATS CUT NIGHT OF MAY 16-17. THE ASSASSINS ESCAPED
AND THE BODIES HAVE BEEN INTERRED. YANG HAS JUST CALLED TO SAY
THAT HE HAS BRIEF MESSAGE THAT THE ERICKSONS (AND NAMES ARE
CONFIRMED IN MESSAGE HE HAS RECEIVED) WERE KILLED ON MAY 16

"UNDER PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES." HE HAS NO
FURTHER DETAILS AT THIS TIME, BUT PROMISED TO FOLLOW-UP. WE
BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE GOTTEN HIS INFO FROM SUERETE AS HE INDICATED
THAT HE STILL HAD NO RESPONSE TO HIS EARLIER MESSAGE.

5. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT NOTIFYING REVEREND ROY ERICKSON (BROTHER)
AT 209-224-8839 AND MARGURITE SWANSON (DAUGHTER) AT 612-729-3896.

6. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE FURNISHED WHEN AVAILABLE. IN VIEW OF
CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH, RECOMMEND FAMILY USE DEPARTMENTAL CHANNELS
IN EVENT THEY WISH TO COMMUNICATE WITH EMBASSY FURTHER.

7. DECONTROL ON RECEIPT.
SMYTHE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978YAOUND02500
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780209-1058
Format: TEL
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780542/aaaabjpt.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c578c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 YAOUNDE 2478
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2644523
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF DEATH OF AMCITS MAYNARD E. ERICKSON AND MIRIAM SUNWALL ERICKSON
TAGS: CDES, (ERICKSON, MAYNARD E), (ERICKSON, MIRIAM SUNWALL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c578c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014